

OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT

									
Confidence Score	Mild Democrat	Mild Democrat	Mild Republican	Mild Democrat	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Strong Democrat	Mild Republican	Strong Republican
Opinion Partners			✓						✓
Dissenting Minority			✓		✓			✓	✓
Determining Majority	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Lone Dissenter	✓								

- ▶ Number of justices: **9**
- ▶ Number of cases: **112**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **65.2% (73)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice James Edmondson (11)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **58**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **8**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Dustin Rowe (3)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **33**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Dustin Rowe (11)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, ten cases before the Oklahoma Supreme Court were decided 7-2. Three other cases were decided unanimously, but two justices joined in opinions concurring in part and dissenting in part. Justices Kane and Rowe dissented together in two of those decisions, and concurred in part and dissented in part together in two decisions. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justice Kane recorded a Mild Republican Confidence Score and Justice Rowe recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, five cases before the Oklahoma Supreme Court were decided by split decision. Justices Kane, Rowe, and Winchester dissented together in four of those cases. Justice Darby joined them three times, Justice Edmondson joined them once, and Justice Kauger joined them once. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Darby, Kane, and Winchester recorded Mild Republican Confidence Scores, and Justice Rowe recorded a Strong Republican Confidence Score.

Determining majority

In the five cases decided by split decision in 2020, Justice Colbert and Combs were in the majority. Justices Edmondson, Gurich, and Kauger joined them in four of those cases, and Justice Darby joined them in two. In our *Ballotpedia Courts: State Partisanship* study, Justices Colbert, Edmondson, and Kauger recorded Mild Democratic Confidence Scores. Justice Combs recorded a Strong Democratic Confidence Score. Justice Gurich recorded an Indeterminate Confidence Score.

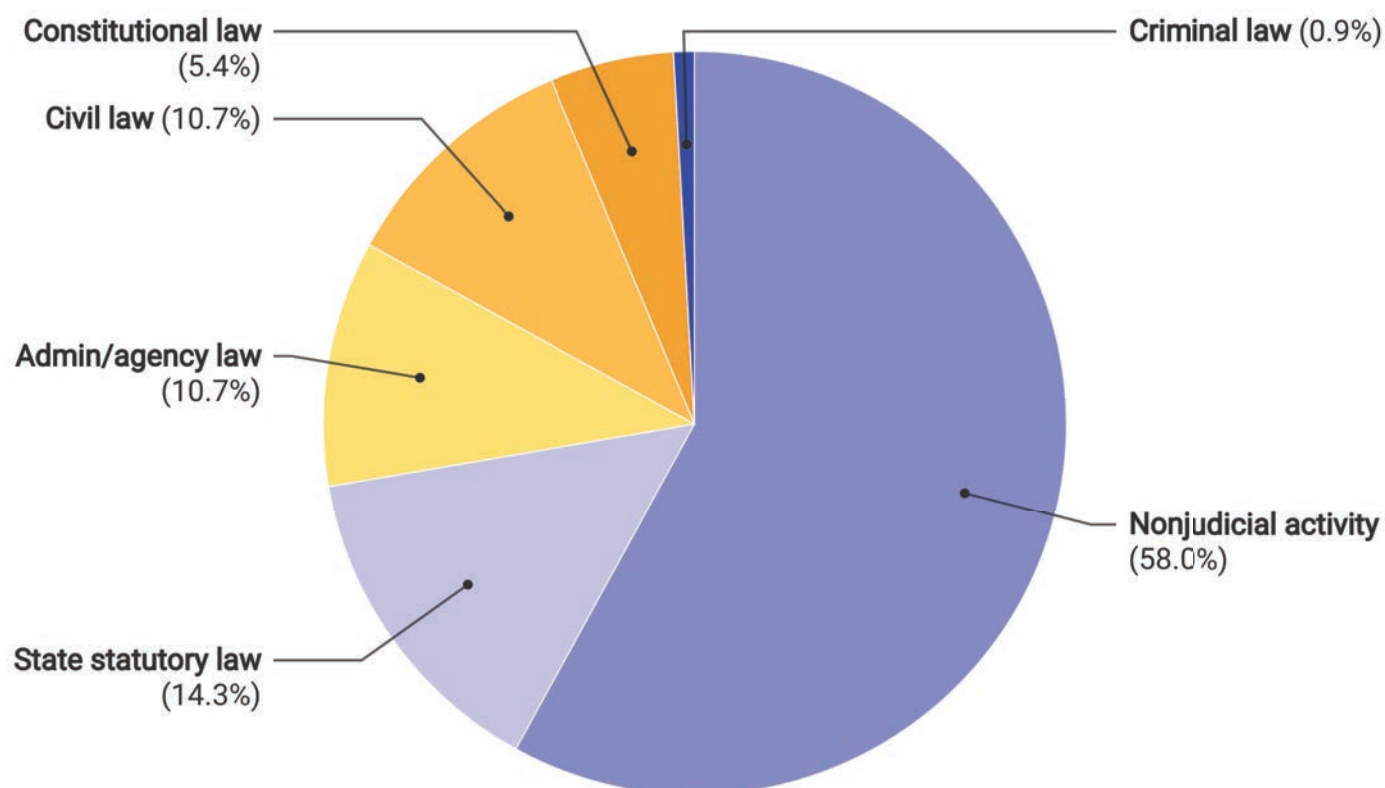
Lone dissenter

In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in seven cases decided by the Oklahoma Supreme Court. In three of those cases Justice Colbert was a lone dissenter, which was more frequent than any other justice on the court.

COURT JURISDICTION

In Oklahoma, there are two courts of last resort, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals and the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The Oklahoma Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction over “cases at law and in equity,” while the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals has appellate jurisdiction over criminal cases. The supreme court has superintendent control over lower courts in the state.

Case types decided by Oklahoma Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 2020 was nonjudicial activity. Of the 112 cases it heard, 65 were nonjudicial activity cases. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were state statutory cases. A state statutory case involves the violation or enforcement of a state statute. The Oklahoma Supreme Court heard 16 state statutory cases in 2020, or 14.3 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were administrative law cases and civil law cases. An admin/agency law case first proceeds from an administrative law court or involves the enforcement of an administrative regulation. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Oklahoma Supreme Court heard 12 cases, or 10.7 percent of its total caseload for the year, in each category in 2020.